

AUGUST 1994

OPEN ARMS

VOLUME 6

NUMBER 8

..... MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER
.....

Row, Row, Row your boat
Gently down the stream....



Actually it all took place on the St. Joseph River, where true Amazons skillfully paddled from Leeper Park to St. Patrick Park.

There were 29 wimin participating in the canoe ride/picnic event. At Leeper Park the wimin clustered together for a group picture, then down the bank, into the canoe, and off they went. There were spottings of Blue Heron and turtles, along with a lot of other very wild life - in front of us and behind us. Two strong photographers among us paddled to the front so they could land and take pictures of the canoe gala. A beautiful sight it was to try and capture.

One canoe got stranded on shallow riverbed, but its navigators kept their wits and soon brilliantly cleared themselves from the area. Later canoers found that same shallow spot...in the middle (I guess the lesson is that taking the middle of the road/river is not always easiest).

Another canoe team entertained us with an artistic water show, which often happens when both canoers paddle from the same side. They soon got headed in the correct direction. One entertainer claimed they had just done a wheelie. Too fun!

Happy we are to announce that no canoe capsized, though reportedly there were those not taking any chances, thus wearing their swimsuits.

The adventure lasted approximately 1 and 1/2 hours. Thoughtful wimin were at the landing site to help others out of the water. It's good to find Amazons at trail's end.

Following the canoe trip, we enjoyed a beautiful picnic area, with lots of good food and hot dogs, which we were informed were not weinies, but breast of dog. They were exceptionally palatable.

Family dogs participated in the assembly, escorted by their well-trained Amazon mothers.

Some wimin worked off picnic calories by demonstrating their skill at badminton. Those birdies were flying! Other wimin worked off their picnic calories by taking a good long nap as soon as they got home. Most fell into that second group.

All in all, we had a great time. We offer a 29 paddle salute to Kaye and Marcia for making this event happen. -staff



67% Say No to Lesbian and Gay Discrimination

Most Americans want to see discrimination against lesbians and gay men prohibited in the President's national health care plan, according to a poll sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a lesbian and gay rights group.

In a nationwide survey of 1,000 Americans conducted by Mellman, Lazarus, and Lake, 67% said they favored inserting a clause into the President's national health care plan to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. In addition, 54% said they would be more likely to vote for their member of Congress if that person supported a plan that prohibited discrimination.--info Feminist Majority Report

Did You Know?

Little girls learn to read and talk at an earlier age than boys.

Women constitute half the world's population, perform nearly two-thirds of its work hours, receive one-tenth of the world's income and own less than one-hundredth of the world's property.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

VIDEO NIGHT

There will be no video night until September due to the softball season.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

First and third Tuesday of the month
7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG

P.O. Box 1281

Niles, MI 49120

MARY'S GARDEN CLUB

(Pretty Maidens All in A Row)

These are now available:

Violet	Black Raspberry
Sharon, Rose-of	Red Raspberry
Lily, of-the-Valley	Red Bud Trees (1-3 yr)
Myrtle	Money Plant
Fern	Locust Trees (1-3 yr)
Iris, Siberian	Camomile
Mum, Orange	Peppermint

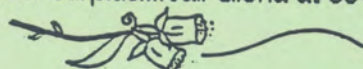


These are sought:

Lily (pink)
Lavendar (the beetles got mine)

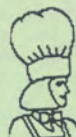
If you would like:

starts of these available plants,
to request plants, or
to share your surplus....call Gloria at 684-4011



OPEN ARMS STAFF

Mary	(219) 234-5986
Sheree	(616) 684-6365
Kaye & Marcia	(219) 271-0338
Advertising:	Kaye or Marcia
Subscriptions:	Kaye or Marcia



3RD FRIDAY OUT HANAYORI OF JAPAN

3601 GRAPE RD, MISHAWAKA

Friday August 19, 7:00 p.m.

Reservations due by Wed., Aug. 17th

Call Lu or Sheree for reservations: (616)-684-6365

*****ATTENTION*****

COORDINATORS NEEDED-

If you thought you might like to be involved with Open Arms and some of its functions, now is your opportunity. We need coordinators for Third Friday Out, and for Game Nights starting in September. Contact Sheree or Lu for more information --(616)-684-6365.



Anyone interested in hosting future game night/potlucks, contact Lu and Sheree at (616)-684-6365

EVENTS COORDINATORS

3rd Friday Out: Lu & Sheree (616) 684-6365

Wimin's Video Night: Gloria & Julie (616) 684-4011

Game Night: Sheree (616) 684-6365

Sunday Brunch: Kaye & Marcia (219) 271-0338

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or content. We ask that all articles submitted be signed and typed, but will respect the wishes of the author by not printing her name if so requested.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the September *Open Arms* is August 10th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to Mary, Sheree or Kaye. Submissions received after August 10th may not be published in the September newsletter.

Newsletter meeting: Sunday, September 21st, 1994 at Kaye and Marcia's, 6:30 p.m. Call 271-0338 for directions.

The Men We Love to Hate



Reverend Anthony Kennedy, a clergyman in the Church of England who opposes the ordination of women is quoted as saying, "Priestesses should be burned at the stake because they are assuming powers they have no right to..I can't represent the Virgin Mary, and a woman can't represent Christ." Reverend Eric Shegog, a Church spokesman, replied in so many words to Kennedy, "Get over it."

Hundreds of women are expected to be ordained in the next few months.

Pat Buchanan, friend to all lesbians, claims in an editorial through the Tribune Media Services, that Brenda and Wanda Henson of Camp Sister Spirit are "provocateurs, their camp is as offensive to Overt as a brothel or a nudist camp. Like the Nazis who marched through Skokie, the Hensons provoked this confrontation." Buchanan also wants to know, "Just when did Janet Reno's anti-biblical beliefs become America's moral yardstick?"

Well, Pat, just when did yours?--info Off Our Backs



PICNIC ANYONE?!



Come and join in for an After-the-Fest Picnic on Sunday 21 Aug 94 at 1:00 pm. It will be held at the Donald W. Langle Park in Elkhart (just off Main Street) and will be potluck. There are grills available. Bring your footballs, frizbees or just your self. For more info call Tammy at 219-522-9429.

.....
• Having a yardsale? Let us know so we can
• advertise for you. We need to know by the
• middle of the month so it will be in the OA for
• the following month. Send ads to Open Arms,
• PO Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546.
•

BOOK REVIEWS

Manual for Survival for Women in Non-traditional Employment

This is an excellent, compact handbook for women in or about to enter "nontraditional" jobs -- occupations women have had little access to such as plumbing, construction, or electrical work. Written by two organizations with tremendous expertise in women and

employment, NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Association for Union Democracy, this book gives realistic advice about operating and surviving in male-dominated work environments, including proactive and reactive strategies.

On the one hand, this book suggests that women will have to put up with sexism in a traditionally male-dominated workplace, particularly if they are the first women ever to be hired on a particular work site. On the other hand, the book says women do not have to take it and offers pragmatic, empowering ways in which women can make permanent, positive change in the workplace.

Manual for Survival offers succinct information on current laws protecting employees against various forms of discrimination and harassment in the workplace, as well as a listing of organizations around the country and government agencies particularly geared to help women in nontraditional jobs. Although this book is primarily aimed at women in nontraditional employment, all women can benefit from this compilation of information and strategies.--Christine Onyango--Feminist Majority

Heather Hits Her First Home Run, Ted Plantos, Black Moss Press, Windsor, Ontario, 1989. Although Heather doesn't actually hit a home run, she does manage to win the game for her team with a terrific hit that knocks in three runs. She fails to score "home" herself, but it's a signal to her coach - and most of to her - that it is possible for her to do it.. maybe next year! Heather learns the value of perseverance and team spirit and she come out a winner.

Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend: Women Writers on Baseball, edited by Elinor Nauen, Faber & Faber, 1994. Women's essays, poems, short stories and excerpts from novels and memoirs. Features sixty-six contributors -- including five Pulitzer Prize Winners, including Anna Quindlen, Mariah Burton Nelson and Letty Cottin Progrebin.

Women at Play: The Story of Women in Baseball, Barbara Gregorich, Harcourt Grace & Company, New York, NY 1993. This book tells the whole story of women in baseball--from the 1800s to the present. Includes interviews with many of the pioneers and more than 70 photos and illustrations.

NEWS NOTES

--The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) recently surveyed the basketball salaries at NCAA Division I schools. Female head coaches averaged only 59% of the base salary, not salary incentives or bonus plans or endorsement packages, of male head coaches (\$44,961 compared to \$76,566). More than 73% of the male head coaches make a base salary of over \$60,000 while just 27% of female head coaches make that much. In addition, 92% of men's coaches hold contracts for service while only 75% of women have service contracts. Women's basketball programs' overall budgets, including operating cost, travel expenses, and recruitment, average \$148,194 annually while the men's basketball programs average \$252,922 annually, a difference of \$104,728. --info from *The Women's Sports Experience*

--A nationwide survey conducted for the Human Rights Campaign showed that 67% of the 1000 respondents favored inserting a clause into the President's national health care plan to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. In addition, 54% said they would be more likely to vote for their member of Congress if that person supported a plan that prohibited discrimination. --info from The Feminist Majority Report--

--For the eighth year in a row 60% of the National Merit Scholarships went to men while only 40% went to women, according to FairTest, the National Center for Fair and Open Testing. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation bases its \$25 million scholarship program on the PSAT, a standardized test that has been shown to be biased against women. The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a civil rights complaint against the Educational Testing Service and the College Entrance Examination Board, who administer and cosponsor the PSAT. --info from The Feminist Majority Report--

--Cassie Clark, a 15 year old weightlifter, has joined the men's junior national training squad at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. At the National Junior Weight Lifting Championships last March, Clark lifted a stunning 165 pounds -- 88 pounds more than any other female contestant and better than all but two of the male competitors. After her victory, she rejected TV offers from David Letterman and Montel Williams because she doesn't want to be seen as a curiosity. An A-student in high school, she has also worked hard to gain recognition of women's weight lifting as an Olympic event and of women's sports in general. She says, "I've given up on guy weight lifters. It's too hard in the gym,



concentrating on yourself when they're around. They can't stand being ignored for that long." --info from *People's Magazine* via *off our backs*--

--When rumors about the sexual orientation of long-time roommates Bert and Ernie, of Sesame Street fame, reached the Children's Television Workshop, the organization issued a statement denying the characters' homosexuality. --info from *off our backs*--

--A Cook County judge ruled that a 3 year old girl conceived through artificial insemination may be adopted by her biological mother's lesbian partner. This ruling sets a precedent in Illinois in recognizing the right of unmarried couples to adopt a child. The ruling is consistent with decisions in many other states and is a definitive victory for lesbian and gay families. --info from *off our backs*--

YWCA's run, jane, run Women in Sports

Schedule of Events August 19 - August 31, 1994

Event	Date	Time*	Location
Racquetball	Fri. 8/19	6:00pm	Pro Health
Volleyball Tournament	Sat. 8/20	8:00am	Outpost Sports
Hunter Horse Show	Sat. 8/20	8:00am	Al-Bar Ranch
3-on-3 Basketball Tournament	Sun. 8/21	1:00pm	Stepan Center
Aerobics	Mon. 8/22 - 8/26	various times and locations	
5K Competitive Blade Roll	Sat. 8/27	9:00am	Pinhook Park
5K Run/5K Competitive Walk	Sat. 8/27	9:05-9:10am	Pinhook Park
5K Family Fun Roll	Sat. 8/27	10:00 am	Pinhook Park
1-Mile Fun Run/ Walk	Sat. 8/27	10:05-10:10am	Pinhook Park
Mother/Daughter Tennis	Fri. 8/26	6:00pm	Leeper Park
Women's Doubles Tennis	Sat. 8/27	9:00am	Leeper Park
Women's Singles Tennis	Sat. 8/27	3:00pm	Leeper Park
Women's Doubles Tennis	Sun. 8/28	9:00am	Leeper Park
Slow Pitch Softball	Sat. 8/27	8:00am	Boehm,
	Sun. 8/28		Memorial, Jefferson School, Potawatomi Fields
Golf Tournament	Wed. 8/31	8:00am	Knollwood Country Club

* All events scheduled for Eastern Standard time.

run, jane, run is a multi-sport athletic event for women and girls to raise funds for the YWCA of St. Joseph County. Non-competitive events open to men and boys, also. YWCA, 802 N. Lafayette Blvd., South Bend, IN 46601. Call the Development Office for a brochure, (219) 233-9491.

run, jane, run

Across the United States every year, 8500, women athletes and volunteers come together in excitement and exhilaration of **run, jane, run** - the largest amateur multi-sports event for women in America!

run, jane, run is used as a fundraiser which enables your local YWCA and women's centers to continue their programs throughout the year. Some of the services offered are Chemical Dependency, Domestic Violence, and Residential programs.

In order to keep these services going much help is needed. Every year, hundreds of people give of their time and energy by assisting with **run, jane, run** events. This year I am actively involved with the annual softball tournament which is being held August 27 and 28th.

We are still in great need for **volunteers** to aid in the success of this event. Please, help your community by offering of some of your time. I'm still looking for volunteers to help on Saturday and Sunday for various tasks. If interested please contact me in Mortgage Servicing at 258-3124 or at home at 287-5071.

Thanks in advance for any time and help you are willing to give.

Jeanne Mrazek

MOVIES: 'Go Fish' is a girl-meets-girl charmer.

It's a measure of how starved the lesbian audience is for films that reflect their lives that "Fried Green Tomatoes"--a surprise hit most people regarded as a heartwarming Southern period piece--became a lesbian cult favorite and even won an award from GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation). All this for a movie that *avoided* any overt references to its heroines' sexual orientation for fear of alienating mainstream audiences.

When Rose Troche and her girlfriend Guinevere Turner sat down to brainstorm the lesbian movie they'd like to make, they never considered it might have mainstream appeal. But they knew what they didn't want it to be. It would not be another agonized tract about coming out or, in director Trough's words, a movie in which women "only have sex under excruciating circumstances." "We wanted to make something we'd want to go out and see" says Trough. We're writing a happy script," Turner kept reminding her partner. "We want to just for once have a movie that's plain old tra-la-la."

Go Fish is it. This black-and-white movie, shot in Chicago on a minuscule budget, is a blithe and funkily stylish celebration of community--a twentysomething girls-meets-girl comedy whose charm is in its matter-of-fact disregard for what a straight audience might think. Turner, the co-writer, stars as Max, given to baggy shorts, baseball caps and writing romantic entries in her journal about meeting the girl of her dreams. Her friends fix her up with Ely (V. S. Brodie), an androgynous, shy veterinary assistant who strikes the hip Max as much too '70s crunchy granola for her taste. The gist of the tale is how these two improbable mates become lovers. But Troche and Turner surround them with a chorus of kibitzing friends that includes Max's roommate Kia, a teacher never at a loss for a pedagogical point; Kia's lover Kvy, whose ex-husband outs her to her mother; and Daria, a waitress so promiscuous she even sleeps with a man. The movie's most radical stroke may be casting the homely Brodie as a leading lady--a rebuke to Hollywood romantic

condition. Once you adjust to the no-budget, anti-glamour style, Troche's artistry sneaks up on you. True to her mission, she leaves you smiling.

The filmmakers figured that at best the movie would play the gay and lesbian festival circuit. But "Go Fish" became a sleeper sensation at the Sundance Film Festival last January and was picked up by the Samuel Goldwyn Co., which knew there was an audience for lesbian films but also felt the comedy had crossover appeal. "To have it supposedly appealing to a heterosexual audience is fascinating to us," says Turner a Sarah Lawrence graduate. "It makes us a little nervous because neither of us would want any lesbian to think we made it as some public-service announcement to the heterosexual world or to cash in on lesbian chic."

Two weeks after Sundance, Troche got a call asking if she'd like to direct a film of "The Brady Bunch." She said no. She'd rather stay independent; she's now developing a movie about the pioneering woman director Dorothy Arzner. "It's turned into a lesbian period piece, Hollywood in the late '30s." Turner has no illusions about a major career playing gay roles, but she speculates about being cast in heterosexual parts. "People like Tom Hanks and William Hurt got Oscars for playing a sexual orientation that's not their own. I wonder if I'm going to get an Oscar for playing a straight person," she jokes. "Is the press going to ask me, 'What was it like to kiss a man?'"



LESBIAN MOM WINS CUSTODY OF VIRGINIA TODDLER

Sharon Bottoms had to leave her toddler again--but possibly for one of the last time, following a Virginia Court of Appeals ruling the lesbian mother should have permanent custody of the tot.

In a 3-0 decision, the Richmond judge ruled illegal sexual activity doesn't warrant separating Bottoms from her son, Tyler Doustou.

A child cannot be taken from a parent "based on proof that the parent is engaged in private, illegal sexual conduct or conduct considered by some to be deviant," Judge Sam Cole III wrote.--info USA Today



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MUTUAL FUND BY AND FOR WIMMIN

Launched in October 1993, The Pro-Conscience Women's Equity Mutual Fund was up 3.2% during its first quarter vs. the loss of 3.8% the stock market had. The fund heralds a new concept in investing--investment in companies where wimmin get ahead. This is the first mutual fund to screen exclusively for a positive record on a fundamental social issue, equality for wimmin, and to target its investments accordingly, without ignoring other social screens.

The mutual fund was started by Linda Pei, a Chinese-born woman, and her former bank colleague, Leslie Christian, a lesbian. These wimmin identified companies must meet some or all of the following three criteria: 1) the representation of wimmin in senior positions; 2) an infrastructure in place for wimmin to succeed; and 3) a strong profile with regard to wimmin outside the company.

When deciding whether wimmin are adequately represented at a company the fund looks for wimmin serving on the board of directors, as executive officers or as heads of key operating decisions or subsidiaries. In addition to representation, equal pay is a consideration, and what proportion of the top 25 salaries paid are paid to wimmin can be very telling. A company's equal employment opportunity statement and its employee benefits program tell a great deal about whether a company fosters an environment favorable to wimmin. Family benefits, such as flex-time, telecommuting, job sharing, on-site child care and child and elder care referral services, as well as educational programs on issues of sexual harassment are

important policies and programs for wimmin. Favorable companies have policies in place to support wimmin in the marketplace, have purchasing plans which favor wimmin-owned vendors and charitable giving programs that target wimmin and children.

The fund has identified over 350 stocks which meet the above criteria and those qualified companies range in size from small start ups to Fortune 500 companies. Shareholders in the fund receive a newsletter which seeks to help wimmin gain financial independence with tips on financial and retirement planning, general asset management information, articles on portfolio holdings and wimmin in business.

For more information on the Women's Equity Mutual Fund call 1-800-424-2295. The minimum invest is \$1000 but Ms. Pei indicated she would consider less than that if wimmin would contact her at:

850 Montgomery Street, Suite 100, San Francisco, California 94133. --info from The Advocate and Greenwich Time--



INFANT CARE

Baby due in August. Need daycare to start mid-September. Prefer family- male or female. My house or yours. All references will be checked. No smokers. Call 273-0264



DRIFT-WOODS COTTAGES

Two-bedroom and one-bedroom cottages available on Lake Michigan, ten minutes south of Saugatuck, Michigan. The cottages are open year around, are fully furnished, have well-equipped kitchens, and linens and towels are provided for bedroom and bath. The living rooms have gas log fireplaces. Gas grills are provided for outdoor barbeques. The beach is accessible via stairs. Hiking trails, sand dunes, cross-country skiing, shops galleries, restaurants, antique shopping nearby.

Call Susan for weekend, mid-week, weekly visits at (616) 857-2586.

*New! Opening in June - a new women's guesthouse!
Call about special pre-opening rates in May.
Book now for Holland Michigan Tulip Festival, May 4th-14th.*

Saugatuck on the river...

DEERPATH LODGE

... an enchanting retreat

Deerpath Lodge sits atop a dune overlooking the Kalamazoo River. Surrounding evergreens, oaks, and an extensive wildflower garden provide a rustic charm. The river and 45 acres seclude our private retreat from public access. Saugatuck, the infamous art colony, and mecca of innovative shops and restaurants is just five minutes by car, longer by boat. We offer three spacious guest rooms, each with private bath; one with kitchenette. A wholesome breakfast is provided.

Guest Rooms For Women

For Reservations & Information:
P O Box 849 Saugatuck, Michigan 49453

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AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
AA Elkhart 7 p.m. every Sunday	1	2	3 NOW Potluck, 5:30 call 291-2342 for info	4	5	6
7	8	9 Support Group 7 p.m.	10 WIMMIN'S 	11 MUSIC 	12 FESTIVAL 	13 HART 
14 MICHIGAN 	15	16	17 Reservations due for 3rd Friday Out	18	19 Third Friday Out 7:00 p.m.	20
21 Open Arms Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	22	23 Support Group <i>mp</i> 7 p.m.	24	25	26	27 Run Jane Run Softball Tournament
28 Run Jane Run Softball Tournament	29	30	31			

ALL Times are Indiana time.

OTHER COMING EVENTS

AUG 9-14- MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

SEPT 9-11-SISTERSPACE POCONO WEEKEND. (215) 476-2424 for info.

OCT. 7-9- SECOND NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMEDY CONFERENCE with Karen Williams, Sara Cytron and others. Columbus, OH. (216) 289-2939 for info.

Same Time Every Month

1st Wednesday - NOW Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Main Library, Corner of Main and Wayne, South Bend. Call 288-7123 for info.

4th Sunday - P-FLAG Meeting 2-4 p.m., Christ the King Lutheran Church, 17195 Cleveland Rd., South Bend. Call Nancy at 277-2684 for more info.

Subscription for Open Arms -- \$10.00/year

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

Make check payable to Open Arms and mail it to: Open Arms, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your submissions on a letter quality typewriter or printer, please do so using a 55 space line. This will make layout much easier. Thanks.

MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

"Our Living Room"
Concert Series
Fall '94 Schedule

SPECIAL!
ENGAGEMENT!

Friday, Aug 26th
Alix Dobkin

Come join us in the intimate setting of "Our Living Room" for an evening with a legend. A foremother of womyn's music, and a proud lesbian, Alix brings her warmth, humor, songs and sincerity to the home she's made in our hearts!

Doors open 7:30, Sliding Scale \$7.50 - 12.50
Limited Seating. Reservations: 517-487-6495

"Our Living Room" 303 S. Holmes St., Lansing

Fall Series

Doors open 7:30, \$5-10 Sliding

Sep 3rd: Kim Wilcox, Mustard Pie & E. Marie

Nov 5th: Susan Harris, Grace Chandler

Dec 3rd: (Our fourth anniversary!) Ellen Rogowski